

DEVA JOY GOUSS, MSW, PC

8676 '00 November 2, 2000

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD. 20785

To Whom It May Concern at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration:

Please grant the Farm Sanctuary petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals!!! The docket number is 98P-0151/CP1. Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be afflicted with a form of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy or "Mad Cow Disease." This disease has been linked to a fatal human illness.

It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing will not cause economic hardship.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place!

Please stop the horrors that downed animals go through and please prevent BSE!

Sincerely,



Deva Joy Gouss